

UNITED NATIONS
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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

IPF: (1987-91) \$10 738 000

(SYR/86/008) - Strengthening Veterinary Vaccine
Production and Laboratory Diagnosis

Date of approval:	25 June 1987
Expected duration:	Three years
Proposed executing agency:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (MAAR)
Proposed UNDP contribution:	\$750 000
Total UNDP budget:	\$750 000
	Source of funds: IPF

Project background

The serious adverse economic impact of diseases on livestock and poultry, and on the food supply of nations is well documented. Viral diseases in particular can cause enormous economic losses and therefore the need for prompt confirmation of clinical diagnosis through sensitive and specific laboratory tests, and for the launching of sound rational disease control programmes. In addition, proper collection and transportation of various tissues from sick animals and chicken are prerequisites for sound and reliable diagnosis of various maladies.

The Central Veterinary Laboratory and provincial laboratories in Damascus, Syria are presently coping with only 30 to 60 percent of their needs due to the lack of adequate functional equipment and various diagnostic, biological reagents, an adequate number of well trained staff, various essential chemicals, and technical know-how. For instance, approximately 20,000 SPF eggs are imported annually from Europe for production of only the Newcastle vaccine. In the past, importing vaccines requirements have posed no problem to the country. However, since the beginning of 1987 importation has been banned due to financial constraints.

Local inputs including additional staff have been provided to the Central Veterinary Laboratory in order to increase the production of vaccines. A newly constructed building near Damascus has also been assigned for the establishment of SPF of flock to produce around 2000 eggs weekly. To complement locally provided requirements, strengthen the existing veterinary laboratory, increase the quantities of veterinary vaccines, set up and stream diagnostic services, and train counterpart staff on the job in various modern diagnostic and disease control techniques, the Government has requested UNDP/FAO technical assistance under the present approval.

Description of project

The development objective of the project is to improve the welfare of rural population by increasing productivity of livestock and poultry, through the strengthening of veterinary services with special emphasis on the production of vaccines and biological and prompt and accurate laboratory diagnosis of animal diseases.

The immediate objective is to upgrade livestock and poultry disease control capabilities at central and field levels through developing and strengthening vaccines and biological production capabilities; improving sound quality control capabilities; developing facilities to test imported vaccine and biological; strengthening disease diagnosis capabilities; and disease investigation capabilities.

Inputs

UNDP will provide a virologist/vaccine production/project co-ordinator for 24-man-months; 23 man-months of short-term consultancy services; SPF specialist for three man-months; SPF equipment engineer for three man-months, two vaccine production specialists for seven man-months, a veterinary investigation officer for four man-months, a diagnostic serologist for three man-months, an engineer for freeze drying equipment for two man-months and a documentation/scientific information specialist; one overseas fellowship in freeze-drying techniques for two man-months; and freeze drying equipment and supplies.

Financial data

Personnel	\$ 468 000
Training	38 000
Equipment	235 000
Miscellaneous	9 000
Total	<u>750 000</u>

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